I·C·P·D 94

Newsletter of the International Conference on Population and Development

April 1993 No. 6

PREPCOM II: SETTING PERSPECTIVES FOR CAIRO 1994

In both Geneva and Amman, the Secretary-General of the ICPD, Dr. Nafis Sadik, focussed attention on the upcoming Prepcom II, 10-21 May, 1993.

At the European and Arab regional conferences* held in preparation for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the Conference's Secretary-General, Dr. Nafis Sadik, directed attention towards the Second session of the Preparatory Committee - Prepcom II - to be held 10-21 May, 1993 at U.N. headquarters in New York.

The international community is now only 16 months away from the 1994 Cairo Conference which will address the fundamental population and development challenges of the next decade, under the overall theme of "population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development". Preparations for the Conference are well under way.

Prepcom II will review the work accomplished since the First session of the ICPD Preparatory Committee, held two years ago, in March 1991. Only one further intergovernmental preparatory session is scheduled between Prepcom II and the 1994 Conference Prepcom III, to be held in New York, from 11-21 April 1994. The magnitude of the task ahead points to the need for Prepcom II to take all the necessary decisions during this two week session in May, with regard to the type of document the Conference will adopt, the precise issues to be addressed and the manner in which inter-related issues should be tackled. "This is the meeting which will decide the type of outcome which the Cairo Conference will produce; not just the format of the document but also its tone and to a large extent its content", said ICPD Executive Coordinator, Mr. Jyoti Shankar Singh.

Outlining her views at the recent European Population Conference, in Geneva, with regard to the type of document she hopes the Cairo

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*European & Arab Regional Conferences

European Population Conference
Geneva, 23-26 March, 1993.
Domestic Features: Ageing Populations and Low Fertility Rates

For the first time in history, the number of older people (over 60) in Europe and North America will exceed the number of young people (under the age of 15) in the next two decades, according to U.N. report delivered at the European Population Conference. The number of elderly people in the region - estimated at 90 million in 1950 - has doubled in the past 40 years, and is expected to almost double again in the next 30 years, reaching an estimated total of 310 million by 2025.

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Arab Population Conference
Amman, 4-8 April, 1993.
Domestic Features: Young Populations and Rapid Growth

National populations in the Arab region are expected to double in the next 25-30 years. For countries like Egypt which has 96% of its land as desert, this equates to another 50 million people on only 4% of its land - an enormous challenge for both

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Proposed Organization of Work

Monday, 10 May

Morning
Opening of the session
Item 1. Election of officers
Item 2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
Item 3. Accreditation of non-governmental organizations to the Conference and its preparatory process (E/CONF.84/PC/10)

Afternoon
Item 4. Preparations for the Conference
(a)General preparatory activities;
(b)Expert group meetings;
(c)Regional conferences;
(d)Preparations at the national level;
(e)Other related activities
(General discussion)

Tuesday, 11 May

Item 4. (Continuation of the general discussion)

Wednesday, 12 May

Item 4. (Continuation of the general discussion)

Thursday, 13 May

Item 4. (Conclusion of the general discussion)
Deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 4:Thur., 13 May, 6 p.m.

Friday, 14 May

Morning and Afternoon
Item 5. Proposed conceptual framework of the draft recommendations of the Conference (E/CONF.84/PC/11)

Monday, 17 May

Item 5. (Continuation of the general discussion)

Tuesday, 18 May

Item 5. (Continuation of the general discussion)

Wednesday, 19 May

Morning
Item 5. (Conclusion of the general discussion)

Afternoon
Item 6. Draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference (E/CONF.84/PC/2/Rev.1)

Thursday, 20 May

Morning
Item 6. (Continuation of the general discussion)
Item 7. Agenda for the third session of the Preparatory Committee(E/CONF.84/PC/L.6)

Afternoon
Consideration of draft proposals submitted under items 4 and 5
Deadline for submission of draft proposals under items 6 and 7: Thursday, 20 May, 1 p.m.

Friday, 21 May

Morning and Afternoon
Consideration of draft proposals submitted under items 6 and 7
Item 8. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee on its second session

Closure of the session.

Key Documents for Prepcom II:

1) *Annotated Provisional Agenda: Adoption of the Agenda and other Organizational Matters (E/CONF.84/PC/3/Rev.1)

2) *ICPD Secretary-General's Progress Report (E/1993/49).

3) *ICPD Secretary-General's proposed conceptual framework for the Conference's recommendations (E/CONF.84/PC/11);

4) Recommendations and Declarations of the five Regional Conferences:
   i) "The Bali Declaration" for the Asia/Pacific region;
   ii) "The Dakar/Ngor Declaration" for Africa;
   iii) Recommendations of the European Population Conference;
   iv) "The Amman Declaration" for the Arab region;
   v) "The Mexico Declaration" for Latin America and the Caribbean;- (each will be issued in the UN languages used by the respective regional commissions).

5) *Reports of the six Expert Group Meetings:
   i) Recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Population, Environment and Development E/CONF.84/PC/4);
   ii) Recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Population Policies and Programmes (E/CONF.84/PC/5);
   iii) Recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Population and Women (E/CONF.84/PC/6);
   iv) Recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Family Planning, Health and Family Wellbeing (E/CONF.84/PC 7);
   v) Recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Population Growth and Demographic Structure (E/CONF.84/PC/8);
   vi) Recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Population Distribution and Migration (E/CONF.84/PC/9).

6) *Synthesis report on the six expert group meetings (E/CONF.84/PC/12).

7) Accreditation of NGOs to the Conference and its prepartory process (E/CONS.84/PC/10)

(*) Documents will be issued in each of the six U.N. languages.

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Conference will adopt, ICPD Secretary-General, Dr. Nafis Sadik stated, "It is my clear preference that this be a new, free standing document. Of course, it will be influenced by the experiences of the World Population Plan of Action and the 1984 Review and Appraisal. Equally, it must be reflective of the new perspectives of the international community on population issues, economic growth and sustainability. I would like to think it will represent a new international consensus on the full integration of population concerns into economic and social activity and sustainable development". Clearly, the key to the accomplishment of such an objective must be political will.

Conference Preparations to be Focus of Debate

Amid the proposed agenda items outlined for the organizational work of Prepcom II (see the details of the proposed work schedule on page 2), two specific items stand out as particularly important.

Item 4: "Preparations for the Conference" will provide the opportunity for Prepcom participants (delegations, NGOs and others) to set out their perspectives on regional conferences, national level activities and the six expert group meetings. Consideration of this item is seen as particularly important, as it is here that delegations will be able to set out their national perspectives on the Conference.

Participants at Prepcom II will be able to draw on a vast array of material to assist their work, ranging from the 162 recommendations provided by the six expert group meetings to the proposals stemming from the five regional conferences, as well as other relevant inputs to the preparatory process (see the list of key Prepcom II documents on page 2). The Secretary-General is also submitting a progress report on the status of the Conference preparations.

As deliberations on the different perspectives proceed, remarks one ICPD Secretariat member, "we will be listening carefully to all the various views outlined at the Prepcom. We see it as providing essential basic guidance for our subsequent work on the main conference document".

Addressing the Issues in the Right Framework.

The second major item for Prepcom participants will be item 5: "Proposed Conceptual Framework of the Draft Recommendations of the Conference". A background document, outlining the Secretary-General's proposals for the final Cairo document, has been prepared on this topic. Dr. Sadik expressed the hope that discussions on this matter will achieve a great deal. "The first challenge for the May Prepcom session will be to reach agreement on a conceptual framework for the Conference's final document. It must set out very clear instructions for the Conference Secretariat so that it will be able to craft a substantive, meaningful and acceptable set of recommendations for consideration, negotiation and approval at the final preparatory session in April 1994".

Provisional Agenda

1. **Election of officers.**
2. **Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.**
3. **Accreditation of NGOs to the Conference and its preparatory process.**
4. **Preparation for the Conference.**
5. **Proposed conceptual framework of the draft recommendations of the Conference.**
6. **Draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference.**
7. **Draft provisional agenda for Prepcom III.**
8. **Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee.**

More NGO Involvement Expected

Pursuant to ECOSOC's clear directions on the important role non-governmental organizations can play in the ICPD process, NGOs are expected to be well represented at Prepcom II.

As the ECOSOC resolution 1993/94 stipulates in its accreditation criteria, those NGOs with ECOSOC consultative status need only inform the ICPD Secretariat of their intentions to participate. All others must comply with criteria of relevance and competence. There is already ample evidence of NGOs determination to be involved in the ICPD process, just as it was reflected throughout UNCED in Rio.

All non-consultative NGOs must have their applications for accreditation approved by Prepcom II. Day One of the Prepcom II meeting - 10 May - has been set out as the planned date for addressing this issue. NGOs which have sought accreditation before the 16 April deadline will have their requests considered at that time. Those received later will be considered as soon as feasible thereafter.

The ICPD can also expect good representation by NGOs from developing countries - such is the message conveyed by the NGO Accreditation Section. This clearly shows that the UNCED experience was well received by NGOs from all regions. Deepening the level of cooperation between NGOs from developed and developing countries will be a key feature throughout the ICPD.

After Prepcom II, applications from NGOs will continue to be received. While some NGOs appear to be setting their sights on Prepcom III, since it will be at that session that the final text will be negotiated, it will still be most important for NGOs to be active at Prepcom II to articulate their perspectives, as the framework for the final document is being negotiated.

ECOSOC Puts Priority on Strong LDC Involvement

For 47 countries, preparing for Prepcom II was made a little easier thanks to the ECOSOC's decision to provide each designated "least developing countries" with the necessary funds for one capital-based representative to take part in Prepcom II. Funds for this assistance are coming from extrabudgetary contributions provided by Finland, Sweden and Spain. The total cost: close to US $280,000 for this session alone. The availability of future funding will determine if this very important form of assistance will be available for Prepcom III and the conference in Cairo.

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Europe and North America*

"This type of generational structure has never been even remotely encountered in the past", said the report released by the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), at the European Conference. "Population ageing will affect social and economic systems, the quality of life and almost all other social arrangements until the middle of the next century, and almost inevitably, for many decades thereafter". Responding to concerns on the consequences of population ageing, the Conference recommended extending the working years of the labour force.

The Conference also addressed the issue of low fertility rates in the overall region, which continue to be well below the necessary levels for the replacement of generations. Experts at the Conference were especially concerned with Europe's ability to replenish the indigenous composition of its work force, and sought less dependence on immigration to adjust long-term demographic imbalances. Immigration could be relied upon to fill temporary gaps in the labour market, the Conference said, but it "may not be a full solution for the adjustement of the age structure in the long run".

Experts also addressed the issue of high rates of abortions in some countries of the region, reflecting high levels of unmet demand for family planning there. The Conference responded to these demands with calls to implement a coordinated strategy to assist these countries in the field of reproductive health and health system reforms.

Mass migrations pressing borders. Some 60 million people have asked to migrate to the Western world, said experts in Geneva.

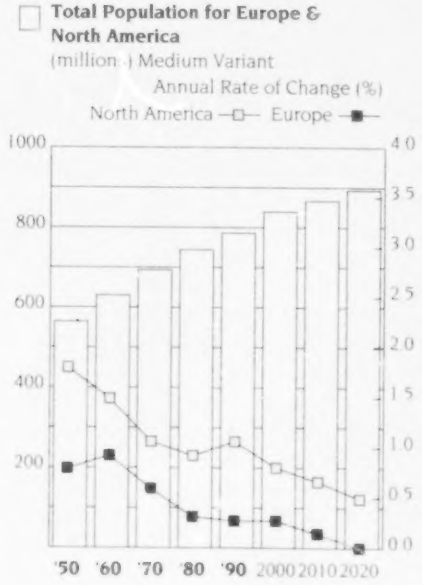
"Western Europe and North America face increases of between one and two million entrants per year, mostly from the Third World", said David A. Coleman, a Lecturer in Demography from Oxford University. The disintegration of the former USSR and the difficult economic transitions faced by East European countries were identified as the principal causes behind recent migrations to Western Europe, but their numbers were said to be far less than anticipated and their movements, only temporary. Increased turbulence in Russia and other CIS countries, however, could send new floods of migrants in the region.

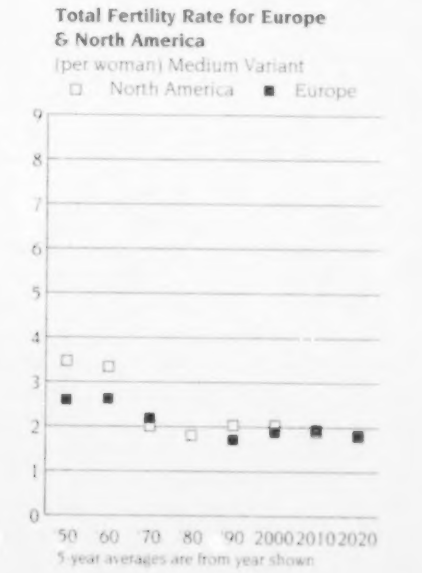
What some experts in Geneva perceived as a greater long-term challenge, is the "continued population growth, economic weakness and political instability," which continue to drive massive numbers of migrants to flee their countries of origin in search of economic and political refuge. "If Western countries wish to control or reverse this inflow, Coleman said, "they must manage the push factors, neutralize the effects of the pull factors or both". The only viable long-term solution therefore is: to reduce the gap in the economic disparities between developed and developing worlds.

Addressing the issue of migration not only served to underscore the important inter-linkages between population growth and economic development, but it may also have provided incentives to increase cooperation between developed and developing countries. "Governments of countries of origin and destination should seek to redress the causes of emigration in order to alleviate the massive and uncontrolled international migration flows," the Conference said, "This may require financial assistance, and reassessment of commercial and tariff relations, and stepped-up efforts by developing countries to create a more liberalized and market-oriented economic framework."

The European Population Conference, held in Geneva, 23-26 March, addressed the population and development concerns of European and North American countries, and concentrated on the following issues: 1) International Migration; 2) Fertility and Family; 3) Health and Mortality; 4) Population Growth and Structure; 5) International Cooperation. Jointly organized by the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Council of Europe and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the European Conference was the third out of a serie of five regional conferences, held in preparation for the 1994 Conference.

The European Population Conference produced a concrete set of recommendations, which will represent the major contribution of Europe and North America at Cairo '94.





The Arab Region: *Comparing Issues

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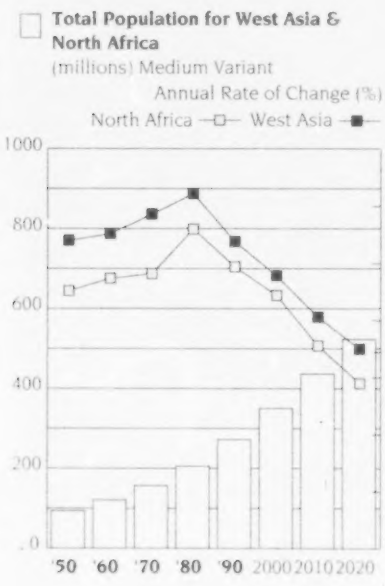
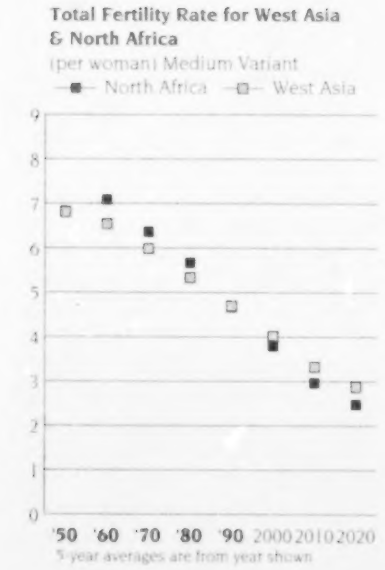
people and the environment. In comparison, the countries of Western Europe will take more than two centuries to double their populations by natural increases.

With a 2.7% annual average, the Arab region is the second fastest growing in the world after Africa, according to U.N. officials in Amman. Recent figures, however, showed a considerable decline in fertility rates over the past thirty years. The number of births per women in the Middle East has dropped from more than 7 children in the 1960s to a level expected to be below 3 by 2025.





Despite these significant reductions, the issue of high infant and maternal mortality in the region raised considerable concerns at the Arab Population Conference, which concluded in Amman, Jordan, on 8 April. UNFPA Executive Director, Dr. Nafis Sadik, in her address to the Conference called for the improvement in women's access to better reproductive health care, not only as a means of reducing these high mortality rates, but as "a keystone to the improvement of the status of women" at all levels of society. "The failure of men to take more responsibility for their actions also helps to explain the persistently high level of maternal mortality in the region", added Dr. Sadik. "By allowing women to delay childbirth until they are out of their teens, to space their births, and to stop having children before they became too weak to bear the strains of pregnancy, maternal mortality could be reduced by 40%". Dr. Sadik went a step further by urging men to get directly involved in family planning programmes despite cultural, religious or social reasons that restrain them from doing so.

An expanded job market will reduce migration pressures

Levels of emigration from Arab countries will depend largely on the ability of these countries to provide jobs for rising numbers of their people entering the work force. This was the clear message heard at the Arab Population Conference. If this is not achieved, substantial migration is seen as one of the few viable alternatives.

Pre-adult populations presently account for 40% of the total population of the region, with the vast majority expected to enter the job market in less than a decade. According to a paper submitted to the Conference on Maghreb migration, 24 million Maghrebis will be in the labour market by the year 2000; that figure is expected to rise by almost 50% in 2010 to reach 33 million. "Future emigration from the Maghreb will depend on the development gap between sending countries and the receiving countries, and on the level of economic and population growth in the Maghreb", the report said. Maghrebi migration to Europe, which involves approximately 2 million people, has been regarded as a permanent feature of the region since 1974. Larger numbers still have emigrated to the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates).

The issue of migration underscores the importance of the close inter-linkages between economic development and population growth. It is certain to be a central theme at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, in Cairo.

The Arab Population Conference was the fourth regional conference to be held in preparation for the ICPD. Jointly organized by the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the League of Arab States and UNFPA, this five-day meeting, which culminated in a ministerial meeting, focused on the following issues: 1) Population Growth and Structure; 2) Population Policies and Programmes; 3)Population, Environment and Development; 4) Population Distribution and Internal Migration; 5) International Migration; 6) Women and Development; and 7) Family Planning, Health and Family Well-being.

The Arab Population Conference concluded with adoption of the Second Amman Declaration on Population and Development. This will constitute an important contribution by the Arab region to the 1994 Conference.

* *Graphs on these pages reflect the statistics of North, South, East and Western Europe, and North America (p.4) as well as North African and West Asian countries (p.5). (All statistics for graphs are taken from the "United Nations World Population Prospects: the 1992 Revision").*

Leading Women's Rights Leader To Head ICPD NGO Committees

NGOs: *Getting Ready for Prepcom II*

Planning by non-governmental interests for Prepcom II and the rest of the ICPD process took a major step forward recently with the establishment of a Steering Committee for the ICPD NGO Planning Committee. Following on from reports in ICPD '94, issue 5, this new Steering Committee has now been put in place and held its first meeting on 11-12 March in New York.

Committee Decides on Leader

On 11 and 12 March, the full NGO Steering Committee for the ICPD came together with a mandate from the Planning Committee for the ICPD to coordinate the participation of NGOs at Cairo and on the way to Cairo.

The first action taken by the Steering committee was the election of a Chair - Ms. Billie Miller from Barbados - internationally known for her work on women's issues, particularly family planning. Ms. Miller will head the Planning Committee and its Steering Committee through the preparatory stages leading up to ICPD in Cairo in September 1994. One of the major tasks will to ensure the widest possible NGO representation.

In recognition of the immense administrative task facing the NGO community as it prepares for the ICPD, the Committee has set in place a strong administrative support team to assist it.

The Steering Committee agreed on mechanisms to ensure that the widest NGO representation was possible throughout the ICPD process and concentrated its efforts on the upcoming Second session of the Preparatory Committee meeting in May.

Dr. M. El-Banna, who came from Cairo to represent the Egyptian National Preparatory Committee, expressed his confidence in the Steering Committee and stated that the Egyptian NGO Committee will do all it can to be of assistance. The Egyptian National Preparatory Committee looks forward to working in partnership with the Steering Committee to ensure the success of the NGO Forum in Cairo. Dr. El-Banna extended an invitation to the Steering Committee to hold its summer meeting in Cairo to finalize plans for the NGO Forum.

The Steering Committee plans to meet again in New York in May, 1993 prior to the opening of the Second session of the Preparatory Committee for the ICPD.

Photo: Billie Miller, a leading women's rights campaigner, has been elected Chair of the NGO Planning Committee on the ICPD.

Members of the NGO Steering Committee for the ICPD

Peggy Antrobus	DAWN (Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era)
Goran Backstrand	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Amparo Claro	ISIS Internacional (Chile)
Stephen Isaacs	Center for Population and the Family Columbia University
Martin Khor	Third World Network (Malaysia)
Jacques Legare	International Union for the Scientific Study of Population
Dounia Loudiyi	Senior Program Officer/Population World Wildlife Fund
Peggy McEvoy	The Population Council
Dr. Florence Manguyu	Kenyan Medical Women's Association
David Poindexter	Population Communication International
Sunetra Puri	International Planned Parenthood Federation
Consultant: Dr. Mahmoud F. Fathalla	The Rockefeller Foundation Senior Adviser, Biomedical and Reproductive Health Research and Training
Ex Officio:	
Rosalind W. Harris	President, Conference of NGOs

Mexico City To Host Final Regional Conference

Once the most populated city in the world when it hosted the 1984 International Conference on Population, Mexico City will now greet regional leaders for the fifth regional conference, to be held 29 April-4 May, 1993, in preparation for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development.

A future of mega-cities

The selection of Mexico City for this last regional conference provides useful insights into what the future may hold for the region, if present trends continue into the next century. According to U.N. estimates, Latin America could be home to not one, but four of the 10 largest cities in the world by 2010, namely Mexico City, Sao Paolo, Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro. Though the Tokyo-Yokohama conurbation currently ranks first on world urban population charts - with 26 million, the average annual population growth of Mexico and Sao Paolo, between 1985 and 1990, was four times faster. The same outcome is expected to occur between 1995 and 2000.

Heading to town?

Latin America and Caribbean countries already have the highest proportion of urban dwellers in the world - more than 70% of their total population, said a U.N. report. This high urban concentration of national populations, resulting from relatively high growth rates and massive migration from the countryside, has had a dramatic impact on the environment and the quality of life of a great number of people in the region. These are fundamental problems which will be addressed at the Mexico Conference.

Internal disparities

According to a U.N. report prepared for the Conference in Mexico, population dynamics between countries as well as within countries reflect a very mixed image of that shown by regional average figures. Population growth rates in the 1980s dropped to a 2% average for the overall region, while per country averages varied from 1% to over 3% during the same period. A closer look at the fertility rates of different social strata within countries, points to an even more distorted pattern from those shown by regional figures. Ms. Liliana Frieiro, Officer-in-Charge of UNFPA's Latin American and Caribbean Division explains. "Rural people in some Central American countries have average fertility rates of 7.6 children per woman, while urban people in the same countries, have less than half that number, with 2.8 children".

This example underscores the reality of perpetual poverty for a substantial segment of certain national populations and emphasizes the close inter-linkages between the level of economic development and the safeguard of adequate standards of living for increasing numbers of people. As a U.N. report stated "the predominance of high fertility reproductive patterns in poor stratum in itself promotes the transmission of poverty from generation to generation". Overcoming these inequities in the broadest, socio-economic sense, the report adds, will require "the facilitation of individual decisions on reproductive patterns". In this respect, the role of the State must be emphasized in its capacity to influence and orient national social policies to the promotion of this aim.

High incidence of maternal mortality is another major problem affecting the region. According to the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), 50% of maternal deaths in many of these countries can be accounted for as a result of unsafe abortions. "This high incidence of abortions clearly indicates the unmet demand for family planning in the region," Ms. Frieiro said. It is likely to constitute a major source for concern when countries meet in Mexico City.

The Mexico City Conference will address the principal population and development issues affecting the Latin American and Caribbean region. Jointly organized by the U.N. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Mexico Conference will concentrate on the following themes:

1) population growth, structure and distribution in Latin America and the Caribbean: the socio-economic trends and implications;
2) population dynamics and development in the Caribbean subregion;
3) population policy and programmes;
4) population growth and distribution: their relation to development and the environment;
5) women and population dynamics; and
6) family planning, health and family well-being.

The purpose of the Conference is to produce a set of operational recommendations that will effectively deal with these issues. A final document is expected to be adopted at the final session of the Ministerial Section of the Conference on 4 May, which will be available to all Prepcom II participants in both English and Spanish.

Calendar

1993

◆ 23-26 March	1993 European Population Conference (Europe and North America); Geneva, Switzerland; jointly organized by ECE, Council of Europe and UNFPA
◆ 4-8 April	Arab Population Conference; Amman, Jordan; jointly organized by ESCWA, League of Arab States and UNFPA
◆ 14-17 April	International Congress on Population Education and Development (ICPED), Istanbul,Turkey
◆ 20 April	12th Annual NGO/UN Population Consultation, New York
◆ 29 April - 4 May	Regional Population and Development Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean; Mexico City, Mexico; jointly organized by ECLAC and UNFPA
◆ **10-21 May**	**Second session of Preparatory Committee for ICPD; UN Headquarters, New York**
◆ 1-18 June	UNDP/UNFPA Governing Council, 40th session, UN Headquarters, New York
◆ 28 June - 30 July	1993 ECOSOC substantive session, Geneva, Switzerland
◆ 11 July -	World Population Day
◆ 24 August - 1 September	22nd IUSSP General Conference; Montreal, Canada
◆ 21 September-mid-December	UN General Assembly, 48th regular session; consideration of agenda item "International Conference on Population and Development"

1994

◆ 11-22 April	Third session of Preparatory Committee for ICPD; UN Headquarters, New York
◆ **5-13 September**	**International Conference on Population and Development, 1994; Cairo, Egypt**

I·C·P·D 94

The Newsletter of the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994

ICPD 94 is a newsletter produced every two months by the Secretariat of the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994.

ICPD 94 welcomes your comments, contributions and any questions you might have on the International Conference on Population and Development. Please contact us at:

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I·C·P·D 94

June 1993 Newsletter of the International Conference on Population and Development No. 7

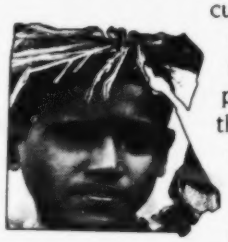
THE OUTCOME OF PREPCOM II:

Putting Population at the Centre of the Development Debate

Population must be at the centre of action on economic, social and environmental issues - this was the overriding message conveyed by participants at the second session of the Preparatory Committee of the International Conference on Population and Development, held at U.N. headquarters in New York, 10-21 May 1993. It will no longer be acceptable to treat population issues as an optional extra in the overall development debate. With this message, PrepCom II provided clear guidance for the Secretariat to begin drafting the first version of the final document, which will be adopted at the 1994 Conference.

A new plan of action: the "Cairo Document"

Delegates at PrepCom II agreed on a set of population and development issues to be discussed at Cairo, as well as on the inter-relationships among them. Of particular importance was the widespread agreement on the draft structure of the final document of the International Conference on Population and Development, to be held in Cairo, 5-13 September, 1994. (See draft structure of the Cairo Document on page 2).



"We have made an excellent beginning in framing what will be a historic document in this most important area of human development", said ICPD Secretary-General, Dr. Nafis Sadik, at the closing of the second session of the ICPD Preparatory Committee - PrepCom II.

The Secretary-General won overwhelming support for her proposal that the Conference adopt a new, free-standing document, which would include action-oriented recommendations that are realistic and operational, in order to effectively address population and development challenges of the next decades. There was broad consensus on the inclusion of many issues that will be negotiated in the final document, such as the interrelationship among population, environment, sustained growth and economic development; the empowerment of women; population ageing; the emerging partnership between governments, NGOs and the private sector, as well as a number of other issues. [Please refer to the Chairman's Summary on the Conceptual Framework - document E/CONF.84/PC/L.9 - which highlights the views expressed at PrepCom II on these and other important issues]. However, as Dr. Sadik recognized, certain issues will need to be discussed at greater length in the coming months. The issues she identified as demanding particular attention were the elimination of unsafe abortions; reproductive health; international migration and international assistance.

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Investing Directly in People

The Secretary-General of the ICPD told PrepCom II delegates that all developing country governments should increase the share of national public expenditures invested in the social sector at home, to at least 20%.

At the same time, she asked donor countries to increase the level of official development assistance allocated to population activities from 1.34% to 4%., and stressed that there was

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Draft Structure of the Cairo Document

Preamble

Principles/Fundamental Considerations

Choices and Responsibilities

Chapter I. The Interrelationships between Population, Sustained Economic Growth and Sustainable Development

Chapter II. Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women

Chapter III. Population Growth and Structure

Chapter IV. The Family, its Role and Composition

Chapter V. Reproductive Rights, Reproductive Health and Family Planning

Chapter VI. Health and Mortality

Chapter VII. Population Distribution, Urbanization and Internal Migration

Chapter VIII. International Migration

Means of Implementation

Chapter IX. Promotion of Population Information, Education and Communication

Chapter X. Capacity-building

Chapter XI. Technology, Research and Development

Partnership in Population - Actors and Resources

Chapter XII. National Action

Chapter XIII. International Cooperation

Chapter XIV Partnerships with Non-Governmental Sectors

From Commitment to Action

Chapter XV. Follow-up to the Conference

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Secretariat gets clear instructions

Dr. Sadik said she and her staff now have clear guidance to begin drafting the first version of the Cairo Document.

Participants at PrepCom II asked the Secretariat to include, in the preambular section of the document, an overview of levels, trends and prospects of the world's population, using a set of demographic and social indicators, based on a 20-year time span. These would be articulated in the context of economic growth and the sustainability of the environment, and would duly reflect the central theme of the 1994 Conference: "Population, Sustained Economic Growth and Sustainable Development".

Agreement to work on 20-year goals

Dr. Sadik also received widespread support for her proposal to include in the Cairo Document a set of realistic, quantifiable goals for 2015.

"Setting goals for the international community is not an attempt to impose a rigid formula", said Dr. Sadik, "but rather a way to address the basic components of an acceptable quality of life for all members of our global family". The participants asked the Secretariat to examine the possibility of including some qualitative goals as well.

Section on Principles

The participants also suggested that the document include a set of principles which will cover the main issues to be discussed at the conference and provide the ground for action. These principles will be drawn, as much as possible, from other major international instruments, particularly the World Population Plan of Action and the Recommendations for its Further Implementation, the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21 and the Amsterdam Declaration.

Fifteen Chapters for Action Recommendations

The main body of the document will be divided into fifteen chapters, many of which will contain a variety of sub-sections. This is the section which is expected to contain the relevant recommendations for action and how they are to be implemented.

In drafting the document, the Secretariat will be drawing on the views expressed at PrepCom II, as well as those which will be elaborated at the 48th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 48) next fall. To ensure that delegates are well informed on preparations for Cairo, the Secretariat was asked to provide an annotated outline of the draft document, as an annex to the Secretary-General's report to UNGA 48, to be considered under the item "International Conference on Population and Development".

The full version of the draft document will be ready by February 1994 and made available in all official U.N. languages. This will give ample time for delegations to consider the draft document before it is presented for in-depth negotiation at the third PrepCom, to be held 11-22 April 1994.

More political support for ICPD

To give more political weight to the ICPD process, the Group of 77 submitted a draft resolution which was adopted in a revised version by the Preparatory Committee, calling for the ICPD Preparatory Committee, established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), to become a subsidiary body of the General Assembly. This resolution states that the General Assembly, which is comprised of all 183 members of the United Nations, "is the highest intergovernmental mechanism for the formulation and appraisal of policy on matters relating to economic, social and related fields". This proposal will be taken up at the next substantive session of ECOSOC, to be held in Geneva, 28 June-30 July 1993; ECOSOC may then ask the General Assembly to take the necessary action.

The resolution also asked that ECOSOC make the appropriate arrangements to ensure adequate preparations for the Preparatory Committee and the conference and invited all countries "in a position to do so" to contribute to trust funds established to assist developing countries to participate fully and effectively in the conference and its preparatory process.

When the General Assembly convenes its 48th session, it will have in hand the report of the second PrepCom, as well as a progress report on the conference, including an annotated outline of the first draft of the final document.

The PrepCom resolution also emphasized the important role of the media, and requested the U.N. Secretary-General to promote the objectives and activities of the conference.

Extraordinary level of commitment by Governments and NGOs

Dr. Sadik praised the "extraordinary" level of commitment demonstrated at PrepCom II by almost the entire international community. Over 150 countries participated in this session, as well as a substantial number of NGOs and intergovernmental organizations. In addition to the 69 NGOs with ECOSOC consultative status, 332 non-consultative status NGOs were officially accredited to the ICPD and its preparatory process, raising the total to 401. While not all 401 organizations which received accreditation attended PrepCom II, more than 400 representatives from 211 NGOs participated in the two-week meeting. Further NGO accreditation will take place at PrepCom III.

Other key decisions at PrepCom II

PrepCom II granted observer status to the associate members of the regional commissions to participate in the conference and its preparatory process. This will involve sixteen associate members, 10 from the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and 6 from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Consideration of the conference's "Rules of Procedure" was postponed to PrepCom III, in part to ensure that ICPD rules conform with a possible change of status from ECOSOC to the General Assembly.

PrepCom II concluded its work with the adoption of the agenda for PrepCom III, with the clear understanding that most of PrepCom III will be devoted to the negotiation of the final document.

National Activities: Preparing for Cairo

More than 100 countries have advised the ICPD Secretariat of the special arrangements they have put in place to prepare for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. In most of these countries, an ad hoc national committee has been formed. Though its composition may vary from country to country, these committees usually involve all relevant government departments and agencies, as well as NGOs, academics and sometimes parliamentarians.

National Committees essentially fulfill two tasks. The first consists of preparing a National Report on Population, which all countries participating in the ICPD have been invited to submit by the end of September 1993. These reports are prepared by national rather than international experts. The second task of the National Committees is to increase public awareness of population and development issues at both local and national levels in order to promote better understanding of the activities and purpose of the Cairo Conference.

Limited financial assistance is being provided by the ICPD Secretariat to developing countries to help fund their national preparations and cover the costs of drafting their national reports. The resources for this important assistance are being provided by extra-budgetary contributions from a number of both developed and developing countries.

(Out of 47 countries designated by the U.N. as "Least Developed Countries" (LDCs), 40 were able to attend PrepCom II through contributions made to the U.N. Voluntary Fund).

How Bangladesh is preparing for Cairo

The Government of Bangladesh has established a 19-member National Committee to work on its National Report on Population. This Committee includes key government representatives from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Planning Commission, the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, the Ministry of Social Welfare and Women's Affairs, as well as a number of NGOs, research organizations, academics and women's groups.

With financial support from the ICPD Secretariat, Bangladesh has also established five working groups to prepare its National Report and has organized three two-day seminars.

The Goverment of Guinea offers another example

The Government of Guinea established a National Committee to coordinate its ICPD-related activities, including the preparation of its National Report on Population.

This Committee includes representatives from government ministries involved in planning, population, human resources, communication and the economy.

National consultants have already started working on the draft version of their national report, which they will then present to the Committee and the National Population Council for comments and approval.

The Committee also plans to organize meetings to promote public awareness of the linkages between population and development issues at the national level. Seminars will also be arranged to ensure that all government sectors can actively participate in the ICPD process.

Parliamentarians for Global Action: "Think Global, Act Local"

Parliamentarians for Global Action translated their commitment to population and development issues into an official document entitled "Parliamentary Declaration on Population and Development", which was presented at PrepCom II on Monday, 17 May 1993.

According to this Declaration, this influential group of parliamentarians, representing more than 19 million citizens from 24 different countries, has pledged to act through their national parliaments to promote population and development goals and policies.

"The 1994 Cairo Conference must be a springboard to generating political will that ensures that the related issues of population and development are at the top of the political agenda of world leaders for the remainder of the decade".

Fighting "aid fatigue"

Parliamentarians also made clear in their Declaration that there would be no lasting solution to the global population and development crisis without major financial contributions from the developed to the developing world. To that effect, the group echoed the ICPD Secretary-General's call for donor governments to allocate 4% of their official development assistance to population activities, and set the year 2000 as their target date. Governments currently allocate less than 1.5% of official development assistance to population related activities, including family planning.

Parliamentarians also referred to the debt problems of many developing nations, and called for more open trade practices between the developed and developing world. Structural Adjustment Programmes were identified as another source of constraint, which further restricted the ability of governments to devote more funds to social sectors.

PREPCOM II Elects Dr. Sai as Chairman

Dr. Fred Sai, a senior population adviser to the Government of Ghana, was elected Chairman of the PrepCom and will serve as Chairman for the remainder of the ICPD preparatory process. With a reputation for leadership in government and in non-governmental organizations, Dr. Sai brings to the ICPD process a wealth of experience in many of the areas addressed by the 1994 Conference.

Dr. Sai, a medical doctor, is currently chairman of the recently established National Population Council of Ghana. He is also Honorary Professor of Community Health at the University of Ghana's Medical School. Since 1989, he has served the NGO community as President of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, the largest NGO dealing with family planning activities in the world.

His past experience includes an appointment as Senior Population Adviser at the World Bank, from 1985-1990, prior to which he served with FAO. In recognition of his widespread involvement and global leadership in family planning and population issues, he was awarded this year's United Nations Population Award.

The Man with Many Hats

Indeed, Dr. Sai's experience in international population activities is so diverse that he was accurately dubbed by one senior U.N. official as "the man with many hats".

Dr. Fred Sai, Chairman of the ICPD Preparatory Committee, contributed his rich experience in government and non-government circles to the ICPD process.

As he takes up leadership of the ICPD preparatory process, Dr. Sai will also be remembered for his effective chairmanship of the Main Committee at the International Conference on Population held in Mexico City in 1984. It was under his chairmanship that the final Mexico Document was negotiated.

Impressive NGO Credentials

Dr. Sai's involvement with IPPF has assured him a high profile in the NGO community. He was co-founder of the Planned Parenthood Association of Ghana in 1967 and two years later was instrumental in the formation of IPPF's African Regional Branch.

The ICPD Bureau consists of two members from each of the five regions of the U.N. system, as well as an ex-officio member from Egypt, representing the host country to the Conference.

Latin American/Caribbean Conference Adopts Consensus Document

The regional population conference held in Mexico City from 29 April - 4 May, produced an official document entitled "The Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development", which will constitute the region's principal contribution to the 1994 Cairo Conference. It was the last of the five regional conferences convened by ECOSOC as part of the ICPD preparatory process.

The Consensus reached at Mexico, which encompasses a total of 79 recommendations, set clear priorities for the region on reproductive health and family planning. Two separate resolutions were adopted: one on a Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development, which would contain a series of goals; the other requesting observer status for the associate members of regional commissions to participate in the ICPD and its preparatory process. A large number of NGOs played a substantial and direct role in the regional conference.

The Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference on Population and Development was jointly organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean (ECLAC) the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE), and UNFPA.

Members of the ICPD Bureau

Chairman:
Dr. Fred Sai (Ghana)
Vice-chairmen:
H. E. Mr. Nicolaas Biegman (Netherlands)
Mr. Abdullah Cholil (Indonesia)
H.E. Mr. Mauro Couto (Brazil)
Ms. Maymouna Diop (Senegal)
Mr. Jerzy Holzer (Poland) - Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur
H.E. Mr. Lionel Hurst (Antigua and Barbuda)
H.E. Mr. Tauno Kaaria (Finland)
Mr. Andras Klinger (Hungary)
Mrs. Usha Vohra (India)
Ex-officio:
H.E. Mr. Nabil Elaraby (Egypt)

Ambassador Nicolaas Biegman, who chaired PREPCOM II's Informal Consultations of the Whole, conducted talks with a swift baton and a humorous touch.

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"no option" to such a shift of priorities.

"The results of our Conference must provide you with the necessary support for these changes in priorities", said the ICPD Secretary-General, Dr. Nafis Sadik, in her 14 May speech at PrepCom II. Dr. Sadik went on to say, "we must give an unequivocal signal in our decisions that such investment is essential, indeed, that investing in people, in the quality of life each individual deserves is as important as investments in infrastructure and more direct economic activity".

The issue of financing is of fundamental importance if the international community is to adequately address the needs of the extra 5.5 billion people expected to populate this planet by the middle of the next century. Of the 5.5 billion presently living on Earth, over 1 billion people - or a fifth of the world's population, currently live in abject human conditions, according to a 1993 report from the British aid organization, Action Aid. The report also stated that the figure for people living in absolute poverty is overtaking population growth and could reach 1.5 billion by the year 2000. "We are not faring well in providing for these additional human beings judging by most economic and social indicators", said Dr. Sadik.

The 1989 Amsterdam Declaration attempted to provide a general assessment of financial requirements for population-related activities for the next decade. It stated, inter alia, that approximately $9 billion, including both domestic investment and external financing, would be needed by the year 2000 to fund core population activities. World expenditures on family planning and other population acti- vities in all developing countries were half that amount in 1987; and in 1991, donor governments committed, on average, only 1.34% of official development assistance to help fund population activities. Where to find the extra funds will be a central challenge of the Cairo Conference.

It was clearly stated at PrepCom II that the extra funds needed to address population and development challenges in decades ahead would have to come, in large part, from countries themselves. But the role of international assistance would continue to be vital in a number of crucial areas.

Many delegates at PrepCom II said that more work would need to be done before the Cairo Conference, to better quantify financial requirements and reach agreement on funding responsibilities. This issue is expected to be a topic of substantial debate at the third session of the Preparatory Committee, to be held 11-22 April 1994. The subject of finance will likely be taken up under Chapter XII on "National Action" and Chapter XIII on "International Cooperation".

The ICPD Secretary-General, Dr. Nafis Sadik stressed the need to invest more directly in people.

Achieving developed country levels

Dr. Sadik pointed to the deplorable gap between developed and developing countries in key social indicators and called on all governments to achieve current developed country levels by the year 2015, in areas such as infant and maternal mortality, life expectancy, access to family planning services, etc.

"I hope you will be properly shocked", said the ICPD Secretary-General as she sought to awaken delegates to the extent of human suffering as a result of insufficient investment in the social development sector. "We know why these infants are dying. The remedies are affordable if the resources are made available".

Delegations at PrepCom II reacted with a general endorsement of the Secretary-General's proposal to include a set of quantifiable goals in the final Cairo Document and overtly acknowledged that more resources would be needed to achieve them.

Dr. Sadik presented delegates with a set of quantifiable goals, which could be attained by the year 2015. In the area of infant mortality, Dr. Sadik said the current global rate of 62 infant births per 1,000 live births could be reduced to 12 per 1,000 by the year 2015; maternal mortality rates could also be substantially reduced to 30 per 100,000 women by the year 2015, and life expectancy at birth could be extended to 75 years in all countries. Dr. Sadik further suggested that all pregnant women should have access to pre-natal services by 2015, and that all school-age children be entitled to complete their primary education, which should be accessible to all. She proposed that 71% contraceptive prevalence be attained by 2015, and that family planning information and services be universally accessible.

The above goals, which already appear in other international commitments, will need to be refined and harmonized with goals adopted at other international fora. They will also need to take into consideration regional and national variations. This will be done by the Secretariat in further preparatory work on the Cairo Document.

Many delegations endorsed the 20-year time-frame proposed by the Secretary-General to achieve these goals and further suggested that they be translated into 5 and 10-year intermediate goals. Progress towards achieving these goals will need to be carefully monitored. Delegates at PrepCom II stressed that no coercion whatsoever should be exercised in their pursuit.

Some delegations also asked that a set of qualitative goals and objectives be included in the document, and that some social and economic goals be reflected as well.

From the NGO Desk

Economic and Social Council Resolution 1993/4 provided non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with an unprecedented opportunity to participate in the preparatory process of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), to be held in Cairo in 1994.

On the occasion of the second session of the Preparatory Committee - PrepCom II - 332 non-governmental organizations were officially accredited to the ICPD process. Of that number, 142 attended PrepCom II, in addition to the 69 NGOs that already had consultative status with ECOSOC. This brought the total number of NGOs to 211 non-governmental organizations represented by approximately 400 NGO participants. Their contribution to PrepCom II was highly appreciated by both delegations and the ICPD Secretariat.

Forty-one NGOs addressed the plenary session and presented their views. One of the many important achievements for NGOs was the inclusion of Chapter XIV - "Partnership with the Non-Governmental Sector" - in the Conceptual Framework.

US delegation leader Timothy Wirth and marine explorer Jacques Cousteau each stressed the crucial role NGOs play in the ICPD process.

In her opening statement, ICPD Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNFPA, Dr. Nafis Sadik, reiterated the importance of NGO participation in population and development activities and welcomed active NGO involvement in the ICPD and its PrepComs.

Several government representatives, such as those from Brazil, Canada, Egypt, India, Pakistan, Thailand, Sweden, Venezuela and Zimbabwe, confirmed the importance their governments placed on the work of NGOs. "We are in this together. NGOs were the stars of UNCED" were the words used by the Counsellor at the United States Department of State, the Honourable Timothy Wirth, when he delivered his government's message to PrepCom II participants.

Dr. Fred Sai, PrepCom Chairman and President of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), spoke of the important role played by NGOs on the national level. "What happens at home is more important than what is taking place here", he said. Such was his message of encouragement to the African Regional NGO group.

The OAU Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Ibrahima Sy, in his address to the African NGO group, highlighted the importance of national population programmes in Africa and added that OAU was currently working on a Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) for its social programmes.

A large number of women addressed the PrepCom session to emphasize the need for women to have a greater say in population-related matters.

In addition to the scheduled meetings, NGOs participated in daily caucuses on women's issues, organized by the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO). Participants were briefed on the activities of the PrepCom and on United Nations procedures.

The NGO Steering Committee organized a series of seminars dealing with issues such as ethics, AIDS, migration and reproductive health. The International Women's Health Coalition, U.N.-NGLS, IPPF and other groups also held regular meetings for their affiliates. The indigenous groups met on several occasions as well, to put forth their specific population and development concerns.

Three regional meetings were organized on a daily basis by the ICPD Secretariat for NGOs from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and the Latin America and the Caribbean regions. These meetings provided fora for NGOs to discuss important regional issues and to prepare speeches for the PrepCom. They also provided an opportunity for NGOs to meet representatives of their own governments, those from other countries, as well as U.N. officials.

The regional meetings led to the creation of an organization called "The Southern NGO Forum" which is expected to meet in February 1994 to discuss common matters affecting developing countries from the South. The purpose of the Forum is to create networks and reach common positions on population and development questions.

Calendar

International Conference On Population And Development (ICPD)—Calendar Of Events:

1993

10-21 May	Second session of the Preparatory Committee for ICPD; U.N. Headquarters, New York.
1-18 June	UNDP/UNFPA Governing Council, 40th session, U.N. Headquarters, New York.
28 June - 30 July	1993 ECOSOC substantive session (Geneva, Switzerland).
7-10 July	Maghreb Ministerial Meeting on Population and Development (Tunis, Tunisia).
11 July	World Population Day.
24 August-1 September	22nd IUSSP (International Union for the Scientific Study of Population) General Conference; (Montreal, Canada).
26-27August	ROUNDTABLE (1): "Women's Perspectives on Family Planning, Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights" (Ottawa, Canada).
6-10 September	South Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Population and Development (Port Vila, Vanuatu).
28 September-1 October	ROUNDTABLE (2): "The Demographic and Health Impact of the AIDS Epidemic" (Berlin, Germany).
21 September mid- December	U.N. General Assembly, 48th regular session; consideration of agenda item "International Conference on Population and Development".
17-19 November	ROUNDTABLE (3): "Population and Development" (Bangkok, Thailand).
24-26 November	ROUNDTABLE (4): "Integration of Population into Sustainable Development: Learning from the UNCED Process" (Geneva, Switzerland).

1994

11-22 April	Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for ICPD; U.N. Headquarters, New York.
July	1994 ECOSOC substantive session, U.N.Headquarters, New York.
5-13 September	**International Conference on Population and Development, 1994; Cairo, Egypt.**

I·C·P·D 94

The Newsletter of the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994

ICPD 94 is a newsletter produced every two months by the Secretariat of the International Conference on Population and Development, to be held in Cairo, Egypt 5-13 September 1994.

ICPD 94 welcomes your comments, contributions and any questions you might have on the International Conference on Population and Development. For more information please contact us at:

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